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Woodrow Wilson, the first American dictator. There's Democracy for you.

How about reducing the high cost of living? The Democrats are not giving this important matter their promised attention.

Germany has just declared war on Portugal. Portugal was a bit too keen on helping England. This ought to be a hint to President Wilson.

Governor Major says that President Wilson is "one colossal figure." You got that last word wrong, Gov., you should have said "failure."

King George and President Wilson are mutually pleased over the fact that Congress failed to interfere in the latter's program on armed merchant vessels.

The dye shortage in this country is said to be a serious problem. There is lots of "die" in Europe at present, but we don't want to import any of that kind.

Our Congressman, Mr. Hensley is not "holding up the hands of the President" just now. We wonder how the De Soto Press is going to adjust itself to this peculiar condition.

Mr. Roosevelt says he doesn't want the nomination for president, unless the country is ready to do something heroic. Of course the Colonel feels that he ought to play the leading role in that case.

In Boston they have ordered fire-escapes placed on the churches. And here we have always labored under the impression that the church itself was the only safe and reliable fire escape.

Congressman Russell of the Fourteenth Missouri District may be for preparedness, but we notice that he is also strong for "peac." He has presented a bill in the House asking for post office buildings for three towns in his district, at a cost of \$65,000 each. And so it goes. Any of those towns would find a five thousand dollar postoffice far beyond their requirements. Is it any wonder that the burden of Federal taxation is growing by leaps and bounds?

Now that Congress has decided not to interfere with the President in his diplomatic negotiations with the belligerent nations of Europe, Mr. Wilson may give his propensity to nag Germany full rein. By the way, have you noticed the difference between Germany's reply to our "notes," and that of England? Germany invariably says, "Alright, Say it be as you say." But when England replies, she tells us go to in diplomatic language, and adds that she will do as she pleases. Germany conciliates England bluffs.

We are in receipt of a circular letter from Mr. Thomas J. Akins, asking our support in his candidacy for the Republican nomination for U. S. Senator from Missouri. We have heretofore felt the greatest esteem for Mr. Akins. He is a pleasant gentleman and has rendered the Republican party of Missouri considerable and conspicuous service in this past; but we are not going to support him this year. He has lately been guilty of a piece of meanness towards his opponent, Hon. Walter S. Dickey, that we cannot overlook. Mr. Akins has sought to turn the German vote against Mr. Dickey by proclaiming the latter's Canadian birth, intimating that he is a pro-Alle sympathizer. We look upon Mr. Dickey as an American citizen who holds his first duty is to the land of his adoption. He has given us no sign that he is anything but an American. If, in this great strife now going on in Europe, in which Canada is taking part on the side of England, his natural sympathies lie with his mother country, he has the unquestioned right to them, and no fair-minded person will hold it to

his disadvantage. We yield the palm to none in resenting England's arrogance towards the United States since the war began, but that resentment does not extend to those who have been born under the British flag, but are now American citizens, so far as we know, as good and true as the case can be. The remedy is, if Colonel Roosevelt, who holds folds of the glorious stars shall undid himself by his very and stripes. Mr. Akins has fired a shot that is going to have a bad reckoning for the plunders.

Watchful waiting has come to an end in our relations with Mexico. It was concluded with the raid of Villa's bandits into New Mexico and an attack upon our soldiers stationed the border, an attack which resulted in death of half a dozen of our soldiers and nearly twice as many civilians. It was the end of forbearance, our troops, without waiting for orders from Washington, invaded Mexico in pursuit of the Villa forces. President Wilson, however much he would like to continue his policy of inaction, has accepted the situation, and an army is now ordered to Mexico to re-establish our lost respect there. This may be a pretty big task and one that may be accomplished only after a sacrifice of many lives; but this must be the price we pay for the foolish and inexcusable policy of our government under the present regime. Now that the inevitable step has been taken, there must be no retreat; either the government of Mexico must show itself willing and capable of restoring peace and stability within its borders or we will attend to the matter ourselves. In this, there will be no "holding up the hands of the President" or "standing by Wilson"; the American people have reached the point where they will act, and Mr. Wilson must hold up their hands and stand by them, or make up his mind to retire in oblivion in disgrace. The final hand in handling this problem is going to be the hand of the people, even if it has to carry the stars and stripes to summit of Chapultepec again.

The price of gasoline has been boosted another cent within the past few days. The old cry of supply and demand is handed to us again to explain the advance. As a consumer of gasoline in our business, we find that we can buy gasoline in unlimited quantities as long as we have the price asked. There has never yet been a time when we were compelled to bid against other consumers in order to get the supply of gasoline we needed; there is always enough for all who buy. This, it seems to us, dispenses of the intimation that the price of gasoline is rising because there is not enough of it in the world to go round. Also, so far we have failed to observe that there has been any complaint of increased cost in production from the manufacturers of the commodity. We have today a half a dozen ways of making gasoline where formerly there was only one and each new process invented usually made the production easier and cheaper. Some time ago the government made an investigation to discover the cause of the advance in the cost of gasoline, but found none. The conditions surrounding the commodity were quite normal in everything but the cost to the consumer. Have you heard of the government taking any steps on its finding? No; and what's more, you won't. The Rockefeller billions speak more authoritatively in Washington than the squeak of the American consumer in the grip of monopoly. Our sympathizer. We look upon Mr. Dickey as an American citizen who holds his first duty is to the land of his adoption. He has given us no sign that he is anything but an American. If, in this great strife now going on in Europe, in which Canada is taking part on the side of England, his natural sympathies lie with his mother country, he has the unquestioned right to them, and no fair-minded person will hold it to

about government. If they were allowed to spread, why, it would take all the joy out of the life of our Rockefellers.

The only American leader who has the real insight of the thralldom to monopoly of the American people.

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Our Faith in Drugs.

P. T. Barnum said, "The American people like to be humbugged." In no other way is this statement of the great showman so well proved as by the demand for medicines and the blind faith the average person puts in drugs.

We import into this country every year more than \$100,000,000 worth of drugs or chemicals used in making drugs.

We consume more than \$500,000,000 of drugs every single year. Can any reasonable person believe that there is any necessity for this, or that it can do anything but harm, asks Dr. M. P. Hayes of the Department of Preventive Medicine of the University of Missouri at Columbia.

When we consider patent medicines, the number in their manufacture and the value of the ingredients is startling. In 1900, there were 12,000 establishments, and the total of the output was \$100,000,000.

But the number of the population in the country had increased from 30,000,000 to 92,000,000. The number of establishments had increased only 100 per cent, whereas the output of patent medicines had increased 1000 per cent.

It is evident that most of these drugs are taken by persons without any medical knowledge as to their use, either as to quality or as to period of time during which they are taken. It goes without saying that a drug which is not strong enough to produce its effects is most probably ineffective in health when taken during a considerable period of time.

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